

## **Open Space Committee**

### **Minutes for September 15, 2021**

In attendance: Frances Lewis, Kait Logan, Joanna Buffington, Saul Fisher, Karen Strauss

Absent: Peter Wade

New member joining next meeting: Robert Young

Start time: 3:01 pm

Minutes were accepted unanimously for July 28th.

#### **Conservation Fund (Karen Strauss)**

- Initial presentation to CPA occurred, as well as a meeting with town administration and with the Housing Trust. Town admin has some concerns about Conservation Commission have sole authority to make purchases. They are reviewing info and Karen is sending them additional info based on their questions and they are going to deliberate.
- Karen also connected with the Conservation agent from Groton, MA who has been using a similar type of fund and she is meeting with him next week.
- She is still going to move forward with the CPA application, but she is looking into changing the amount being requested per the recommendation of the Housing Committee. She also recommended we have individual conversations with each of the CPC members before we submit our application and keep it succinct. Application is due November 1.
- Frances also brought up collecting letters of recommendations from other committees and individuals (town) and local residents and businesses. Karen created a list for us to divvy up as well as a summary that we can easily share during our individual discussions.

#### **CPA Projects Update**

- Our committee has to start figuring out what we want on the software and partner with Paul Lagg once we have this completed.
- Joanna asked about the status of the Higgins signage. Frances will follow up with Chuck.
- Frances also agreed to follow up with Paul Lagg about the trash removal at Higgins that has been requested from DPW.
- Kait suggested we create a spreadsheet of lingering/action items that we can send to applicable parties. The group agreed and discussed some of the parameters that could be on the spreadsheet. Kait agreed to create and share with team. We are referring to this as a post-meeting memo.

#### **Land Management Plans for Priority Parcels Update (Kait)**

- An addendum was added which includes all of the invasive species, details, and pictures.
- Maps removed. Kait and Frances agreed that for maps to be useful we need more detail than what is provided on the trail maps. Karen suggested we partner with Paul to get a good aerial map, that includes identified wetlands, etc.
- Still missing info on Upper Boat Meadow. May need to wait for Bob Cook.
- Joanna also suggested we send a copy of this to DPW to get their opinion on process and timeline for the DPW responsibilities section.
- Karen also raised the need to include a town's responsibility portion, such as connecting with Americorp on certain projects.
- Added Saul Fisher to Wiley Parker.
- Bob Cook wants to continue to work on Sandy Meadow. He will partner with the new member.

### **Wiley Park Update/Disturbed Areas**

- Chuck has been looped in on the groups' (OSC and 1651 Committee) plan to fence in the highly disturbed areas. He has given permission for us to put up a temporary demarcation of bamboo stakes and string to prevent continual damage.
- We will also need to print and laminate a sign.
- Agreed we should ask DPW if they have stakes or any supplies that we could use.
- Saul to follow up with 1651 to confirm that they are comfortable with our next steps.

### **Affordable Housing**

Paul Lagg is planning a mid-October meeting with Affordable Housing and Open Space to discuss putting a procedure in place to handle parcels as they become available and agree on criterium for each.

### **Old or New Business**

**New Business:** Committee unanimously agreed that we would prefer to continue zoom meetings at least through December.

**Old Business:** Joanna has checked in with Jacqui on getting the Conservation Restrictions on town land to be active and visible. They are still with town council. This will ensure that these areas are actually protected.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Next meeting date: Oct 20, 2021 at 3 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kait Logan